(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that it takes several days for the dak to be delivered to certain remote tribal areas of the State of Tripura and if so, whether Government contemplate to make the postal services in Thope areas quicker and more efficient; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) As a general approach, liberalised norms are being followed for opening of post offices in all States and Union territories for following areas:

(i) Areas identified as tribal for purposes of implementation of tribal sub plans/integrated tribal development projects.

(ii) Areas identified for implementation of hill area development programme; and

(iii) Areas notified as backward by the respective State Government/UT administration for purposes of accelerated development.

Particulars of such areas in Tripura are being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) There is a sorting mail office in Agartala which deals with inward and outward mail. First class mail posted in Assam/Meghalaya/Manipur/Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh for Tripura are air-lifted from Guwahati and Silchar while Mail from Delhi is airlifted direct to Agartala via Calcutta. Mails from other Circles are concentrated in Calcutta, sorted and closed bags despatched for Agartala Sorting Office or Head Post Office as the case may be. Normally, mails reach Agartala on the 2nd or 4th day of posting Routing of mail to rural areas of Tripura is done through transport buses. Monitoring exercises undertaken show no undue delay to mail to that State.

National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

2352. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minster of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what criteria are being adopted by Government to find out the length of National Highways in different States;

(b) the present existing length in Kms. of the National Highways in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Governments consideration to include the 260 kilometre road from Hyderabad to Venkatapuram via Warangal, Nagaram road as National Highways in the current financial year; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) There is no criteria for determining length of National Highways in different States. Roads are declared as National Highways not on the basis of any area, region or State but keeping in view the country as a whole which is distinct from the local requirement.

(b) The present length of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh is 2299 kms.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Machilipatnam port in Andhra Pradesh

2353. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of SURFARE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop Machilipatnam port in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the details of the exports though the Machilipatnam port during the last three-years; and

(d) the amount of the income earned during the last three years in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Machilipatnam Port is a minor Port under the administration of the State Government. The Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 300 crores in the State Plan for the development of the Port during the 7th Five Year Plan. As per information supplied by the State Government an amount of Rs. 40.00 lakhs has been spent during 1985-86. During 1986-87 an amount of Rs. 105 lakhs is estimated to be spent. During 1987-88 it is proposed to spend Rs. 105 lakhs on this minor port.

(c) According to the State Govt. during 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86, the Port handled 5880 tonnes, 40,818 tonnes and 79,340 tonnes of fertiliser respectively (imports). There were no exports.

(d) According to the State Government the revenue derived during 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86 was Rs. 98649, Rs. 135051 and Rs. 1,79,004 respectively.

Tender committees for alloting coal handling, cinder picking and ash handling work at Allahabad, Kanpur and Tundla rail sheds

2354. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and designation of J. A. Grade Officers who were nominated by the Divisional Railway Manager to function as Members of Tender Committee for deciding tenders invited in year 1986 for Coal handling, cinder picking and ash handling work at Allahabad, Kanpur, and Tundla rail sheds, separately;

(b) whether the members were fully apprised of the latest circulars and policy directives issued by the Railway Board from time to time to deal with the cases of Labour Cooperative Societies; and

(c) whether members of Committee were given sweeping powers by the Divisional Railway Manager, Allahabad, to amend/supplement and violate specific terms and conditions of tenders embodied in the draft agreement and Instructions to Tenderers supplied to the individual tenderers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Use of Rangafala Navigable Channel for Calcutta Port

2355. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government Consideration to use the Rangafala Navigable Channel for Calcutta Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The channel has been opened only for daylight navigation from 19th February, 1987.

German consultancy for Railway Information Network

2356. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Indian agents of the German Consultants whose